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Poet buried in rocking chair

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MIDWAY, Wasatch County - If all those golfers at Wasatch Mountain State Park knew who was watching them from the top of the hill, a few games and averages would most likely improve.

William Walter Wilson has been gazing across the Heber Valley and what is now the Wasatch Mountain State Park Golf Course since 1880. That's the year Wilson died and was buried on a hill overlooking the valley.

Pioneer gravesites scattered across Utah's hills and valleys are not uncommon. but Wilson's grave is special enough to deserve some notice.

His gravestone reads, "Mormon, pioneer, polygamist, poet, farmer, miner and militia man," and if that's not enough, Wilson was buried right on that Midway hill sitting in his rocking chair.

That's right - in his rocker. His gravestone reads, "He was buried under hese oaks where he enjoyed much leisure time. Legend has it he was buried here in a sitting position in order to see the sun rise ever the majestic mountains lighting the peautiful valley below."

Not a bad idea, for the view from Wilson's hill is spectacular. His oaks are he tallest trees for miles around and the iew goes on and on from mountain to

Wasatch County Commissioner Pete Joleman, a lifelong Midway resident, says e remembers hearing stories about the Vilson grave since he was a little boy.

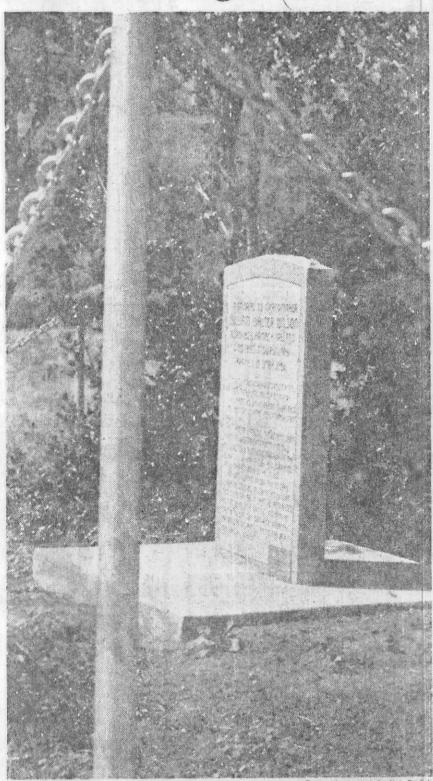
"My dad used to tell me all kinds of tories about that grave, and he used to say hat Mr. Wilson was buried sitting right in is rocking chair," Coleman remembered.

Don Morgan, assistant supervisor of Vasatch Park, says it's all true, "Some of is family members come up here for a eunion once in a while," Morgan said. "He esired to be buried in a rocking chair oking out across the mountains and that's hat happened."

Wilson once owned the land he is now uried on. His descendents erected a small remorial to him on that Wasatch hill in

They remembered him "spending many ours with poetry in this picturesque tting overlooking beautiful Heber Valley ad surrounded by the mountains he

No doubt Wilson wrote many a poem bout the sunsets and sunrises, never reaming there would be an 18-hole golf surse in his old back yard.



Deseret News photo by Kris Radish

Monument marks the grave of William Walter Wilson.